

Rockland Council on Aging
317 Plain St Rockland, Ma.
Secretaries Report
Wednesday December 10, 2014

With a quorum present Chairperson Beverly Ladner called the meeting to order at 9:30.

Roll Call: Audrey Ryan, Lorraine Ahern, Peter Stonis, Jean Callahan Chris Kelly, Lu Crowley, and alternate John Rogers. Excused: Eleanor Cole, Patti Penney; Absent Cynda Childs and Jack Conway.

Old Colony Elder Services: Agnes Smith was excused. She emailed her report to the Director regarding the updates of the Governors budgets in Home Care of \$1.5 million dollars. An additional competing factor is that they have been instructed to increase unit rates for home care by an average of \$34.00 per month per person. Many members of COA have asked what the difference is between OCPC and OCES – here is a summary of the OCES

The Mission of OCES

Incorporated in 1974, **Old Colony Elder Services (OCES)** is one of 27 private non-profit Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. OCES is governed by a Board of Directors, which includes representatives from the 23 communities in our service area.

OCES's Service Area

Abington, Avon, Bridgewater, Brockton, Carver, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Easton, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Kingston, Lakeville, Marshfield, Middleboro, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Rockland, Stoughton, Wareham, West Bridgewater, & Whitman.

Our Mission

The mission of OCES is to support the independence and dignity of elders and individuals with disabilities by providing essential information and services that promote healthy and safe living.

Old Colony Planning Council: Rita Howes reported that although there was no meeting in December the OCPC has been very busy with programs and updates on the budgets for 2015. Director Patrick Hamilton reported that he is very pleased with the Rockland Senior Center and the programs that have been implemented. Rita Howes is currently looking for an alternate to the OCPC. Many members of COA have asked what the difference is between OCPC and OCES. Here is a short explanation of the mission of OCPC. Rita Howes is appointed by the Town of Rockland to represent our interests.

The Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) is a governmental entity that was established under state statute in 1967 as a comprehensive regional agency to "prepare plans for the physical, social and economic development of the District". The Council was formed in response to a growing need of local communities to be able to address the multitude of problems that cross over local boundaries such as air and water pollution, transportation deficiencies and economic distress. Such problems require cooperative action by affected local governments and the Old Colony Planning Council is the governmental mechanism available at the local level to effect municipal cooperation and coordination. Old Colony Planning Council is one of thirteen regional planning agencies in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Motion to approve the report was made by Lorraine Ahern and 2nd by Jean Callahan.

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting / Secretaries Report: A motion was made by Audrey Ryan to accept the report as read, seconded by Jean Callahan and the vote was unanimous.

Financial Report: A motion was made by Lorraine Ahern to accept the report as read, seconded by Lu Crowley; the vote was unanimous. Current balance: \$47,184.01.

Warrant Report: The Bill Warrant was duly signed. Motion by Lorraine Ahern and 2nd by Chris Kelly to accept report.

Outreach Report: A motion was made by Audrey Ryan and 2nd by Lu Crowley to accept the report.

- Eleanor reported that Home Instead Senior Care had generously offered to decorate the library for the Holidays. The Christmas tree and beautifully wrapped gifts are adorning the shelves of the library and are much appreciated by all who come to the senior center.
- Possibilities Ministry generously donated 23 turkey dinners for Thanksgiving to residents and families in need. The Plymouth County Sheriff's Department also donated turkeys again this year to needed residents and families. The Town of Rockland is extremely fortunate to have such caring agencies and people in our District.
- Meals on Wheels drivers are still urgently needed.
- The Pen Pal program will begin in January 2015 with the Memorial Park 4th grade class.
- Several new programs will be starting in the New Year including a Diabetes Self-Management Program as well as a Greif Support Group Program.

Director's Report: The motion was made by Lu Crowley to accept the report as presented, seconded by Chris Kelly.

- The senior center was recently visited by "Studio G" the developer of the center to take pictures and document the success of the design of the building as well as many of the programs that have been successfully developed and implemented in a very short time frame. There were many comments on the cleanliness and complete organization of all the rooms and space at the center. Studio G promoters were in awe at the wonderfully displayed crafts and other items for sale at the center. These items are made and donated by the "Elves Group".
- Many of the "Punch List" items have been resolved. The few issues left are being worked out including the sealing of the storm drains, shades in the café and some future plans for additional switches for the speakers and video.

- Building Committee Chair John Rogers reported that despite over 5 inches of rain in a 24 hour period there were no leaks in the roof or structure of the building. There was a minor issue with rain blowing under the handicap doors which will be remedied.
- Director Peggy contacted Comcast Cable to report that the senior center was being overcharged in their monthly rate/bill. Due to her diligence Comcast has agreed to reduce many of the charges and to refund the center the overcharges back to June 2014.
- The center will be closed on December 24th and December 25th as well as January 1st and 2nd 2015. This closing will also allow the janitor to do some cleaning while the building is empty.
- The director reported that over 80 residents attended the annual Holiday Tea hosted by the Council on Aging. This was one of the biggest and brightest Holiday Tea's in the area with plenty of food, entertainment, dancing and raffles. A fun time was had by all with many requests to do this type of affair more often.

As there was no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Lu Crowley and 2nd by Audrey to adjourn at 10:30 AM, the vote was unanimous.

Next meeting January 14, 2015 @ 9:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Ahern
Secretary COA
December 10, 2014